
Report to: People Committee

Date of Meeting: 18 November 2021

Subject: Period Poverty: access to free period products

Report by: Kaye Hills, Improving Outcomes Team Leader (People)

1.0 Purpose

1.0 The purpose is to provide an overview of the progress across Clackmannanshire of access to free sanitary products and plans for wider partnership support and engagement.

2.0 Recommendations

2.0 It is recommended that People Committee note and comment on the contents of this paper.

3.0 Background

3.1 From September 2018, all establishments in Clackmannanshire were informed of the Scottish Government Access to Free Sanitary Provision Programme

Information relating to the service was shared with all young people from P5-S6 and their families, in accordance with the schools Health and Wellbeing Policy and Curriculum and arrangements made for sufficient stock of sanitary products to be allocated.

Provisions were made for young people to collect sufficient sanitary products to meet their needs over evenings, weekends and holidays, in such a way as to avoid anxiety or embarrassment. Supplies were also made for young people who are home schooled. Ongoing evaluation took place in partnership with Community Learning and Development (CLD) and Health and Wellbeing Leads in schools and adjustments were made accordingly.

Disruption to these plans during COVID 19 resulted in the need to develop a wider partnership approach to delivery to our most vulnerable young people

through Third Sector partners and a local authority working group (with representatives from Third Sector, Facilities Management, CLD, primary and secondary colleagues) This group continue to meet to ensure that there are sustained approaches to improved and equitable delivery and engagement.

In January 2019 the Scottish Government announced a further £4 million of funding to local authorities to expand the provision of free period products in local communities. The budget for Clackmannanshire Council to supply free period products across education and the local community from April 2021 – March 2022 is £46,000. **In a change from previous years, this funding is being allocated as a single budget at Local Authority level to allow maximum flexibility for Authorities to manage and utilise the funding.** (The funding may include staffing costs).

The Period Products (free provision) (Scotland) Bill became an Act in January 2021, building on the existing voluntary provision in education and community settings, funded by the Scottish Government since 2018/19. The act states that everyone in Scotland who menstruates should have reasonably convenient access to period products, free of charge, as and when they are required.

Work is underway to ensure that all community buildings in Clackmannanshire offer free period products and, working with our partners in Third Sector, a wider range of buildings and facilities across the authority can offer this provision. Facilities Management have identified Local Authority buildings for allocation. They will replicate the system in schools whereby cleaning staff are responsible for the ordering and restocking of sanitary products.

Products are now available in our libraries and community access points (e.g. Speirs Centre).

4.0 Considerations

- 4.1 Flexibility in the allocation of funding may need to take into account the inclusion of staffing costs, wider engagement with retailers and suppliers, support with administration, and a review of current access to include options around postal, card and voucher schemes

5.0 Next Steps

- 5.1 The partnership working group and attendance at the National Network will continue to ensure that approaches and engagement will be refined to enhance and tailor central support to meet identified needs.

6.0 Sustainability Implications

6.1 None

7.0 Resource Implications

7.1 The budget for Clackmannanshire Council to supply free period products across education and the local community from April 2021 – March 2022 is £46,000. In a change from previous years, this funding is being allocated as a single budget at Local Authority level to allow maximum flexibility for Authorities to manage and utilise the funding.

8.0 Exempt Reports

8.1 Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below)
No

9.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) Our Priorities (Please double click on the check box)

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all.

Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence

(2) Council Policies (Please detail)

None

10.0 Equalities Impact

10.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?

Yes No

11.0 Legality

11.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers.

Yes No

12.0 Appendices

12.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix 1 Period Poverty October 2021

13.0 Background Papers

13.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report?(All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes No

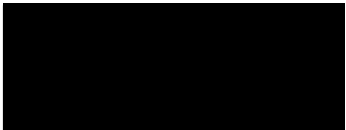
The Programme for Government, Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA) of our Programme for Government 2017-2018

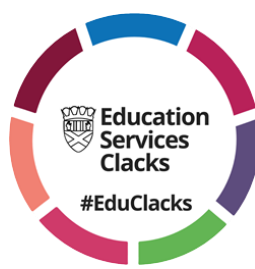
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/access-free-sanitary-products-programme-government-commitment-business-regulatory-impact/pages/1>

Author(s)

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Kaye Hills	Improving Outcomes Team Leader	2471

Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Lorraine Sanda	Strategic Director (People)	



Appendix 1

Period Poverty - October 2021

The Scottish Government has committed to providing access to free sanitary products to students attending schools, colleges and universities to support equality, dignity and rights for those who menstruate and to ensure that lack of access to products does not impact on an individual's ability to fully participate in education at all levels.

From September 2018, all establishments in Clackmannanshire were informed of the Scottish Government Access to Free Sanitary Provision Programme

Information relating to the service was shared with all young people from P5-S6 and their families, in accordance with the schools Health and Wellbeing Policy and Curriculum and arrangements made for sufficient stock of sanitary products to be allocated.

Provisions were made for young people to collect sufficient sanitary products to meet their needs over evenings, weekends and holidays, in such a way as to avoid anxiety or embarrassment. Supplies were also made for young people who are home schooled. Ongoing evaluation took place in partnership with Community Learning and Development (CLD) and Health and Wellbeing Leads in schools and adjustments were made accordingly.

Disruption to these plans during COVID 19 resulted in the need to develop a wider partnership approach to delivery to our most vulnerable young people through Third Sector partners and a local authority working group (with representatives from Third Sector, Facilities Management, CLD, primary and secondary colleagues) This group continue to meet to ensure that there are sustained approaches to improved and equitable delivery and engagement.

In January 2019 the Scottish Government announced a further £4 million of funding to local authorities to expand the provision of free period products in local communities. The budget for Clackmannanshire Council to supply free period products across education and the local community from April 2021 – March 2022 is £46,000. **In a change from previous years, this funding is being allocated as a single budget at Local Authority level to allow maximum flexibility for Authorities to manage and utilise the funding.**

The Period Products (free provision) (Scotland) Bill became an Act in January 2021, building on the existing voluntary provision in education and community settings, funded by the Scottish Government since 2018/19. The act states that everyone in Scotland who menstruates should have reasonably convenient access to period products, free of charge, as and when they are required.

Discussions with colleagues in the Third Sector continue to determine how we can extend the provision to ensure our most vulnerable community members are able to access the product, particularly as Fare Share will not be supplying Food Banks from March 2022

The Scottish Government has commissioned the production of a Period Products App, showing the location of free period products throughout Scotland. It is hoped this app will be ready to launch before the end of 2021. Information regarding this is being shared with all stakeholders.

The working group will continue to ensure that approaches and engagement will be refined to enhance and tailor central support to meet identified needs. A representative from the working group attends the National Network to ensure that we continue to support the development, implementation and delivery of the policy as it relates to wider settings.

The working group will build on partnership with the Third Sector and the Tackling Poverty Partnership as a means of consulting with the local community over product/location, etc. to ensure a high standard of service delivery is available across Clackmannanshire and that those most in need of the service are supported.

In partnership with CLD and the Youth Council, on-going consultation on existing provision to young people in education services will ensure that their voices and opinions are heard.

Continuous review and development may require a more responsive approach as ongoing feedback may identify development needs that were not apparent. The working group will take this into consideration and be agile in its response to this.

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